

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 VO-01 CA-01 L-01 SSO-00 HA-02 SP-02 /031 W  
-----034824 011013Z /17

O 090955Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1950  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L L I L O N G W E 0 8 3 7

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CVIS, PDIP, MI, OS (CHIWAYA, HENRY F)  
SUBJ: DATT'S POSITION IN MALAWI

REF: LILONGWE 807

1. MINEXTAFF PERMSEC KACHINGWE CONVOKED ME TO HIS OFFICE 10 A.M. JUNE 1 WHERE HE WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY MKANDAWIRE, NGWIRI'S DEPUTY. KACHINGWE EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT BANDA HAD REVIEWED THE AIDE MEMOIRE I SUBMKTED MAY 29 AND HAD FURTHER DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HIM AND GENERAL MATEWERE AND THT THE PRESIDENT HAD "AGREED AND ACCEPTED" ALL POINTS MADE IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE. IT WAS, THEREFORE, AS KACHINGWE PUT IT, NOT A MATTER OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AS FAR AS PRESIDENT WAS CONCERNED. NONETHELESS, GEN MATEWERE INFORMED PRESIDENT THAT HE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF COL. ABERNATHY WOULD DEPART SINCE THERE MIGHT BE A LACK OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE ON BOTH SIDES. KACHINGWE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS NOW STRICTLY MATTER OF "PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS."

2. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTIONS, KACHINGWE SAID THAT THEREWOULD BE NO FORMAL DOCUMENT PRESENTED TO US

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REQUESTING ABERNATHY'S DEPARTURE, WHEREUPON I INQUIRED IF THEREFORE ABERNATHY WOULD BE ABLE TO DEPART "GRACEFULLY." HE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY AND SAID THAT A MONTH OR TWO WOULD APPEAR TO BE ACCEPTABLE BUT IT WOULD DEPEND ON US, NOT ON THEM. IN MEANTIME, HE ASSUMED THAT ABERNATHY WOULD REFRAIN FROM FURTHER CONTACTS WITH MALAWI MILITARY KACHINGWE THEN ADDED

THAT GOM WOULD WELCOME ASSIGNMENT OF NEW ATTACHE.

3. KACHINGWE AND MKANDAWIRE REPEATEDLY STRESSED

THAT PRESIDENT BANDA DID NOT WISH THIS TO BE GOVERNMENT-  
TO-GOVERNMENT MATTER. KACHINGWE ALSO STRESSED THAT

"AMBASSADOR STEVENSON SHOULD HAVE COME TO ME CONCERNING  
THIS VISA CASE" RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH A NON-  
DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL. IF THAT HAD BEEN THE CASE, HE  
ADDED, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HEAD OFF MATEWERE'S  
DISPLEASURE.

4. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT TRANSFER ORDERS T  
ISSUED TO COL ABERNATHY ALLOWING HIMSELF AND FAIMLY  
ENOUGHT TIME FOR DISCREET DEPARTURE.

5. ON RELATED SUBJECT, KACHINGWE SAID THAT HE WOULD  
REVIEW CASE OF MAJOR BICKEL WITH MILITARY TO BE SURE  
THAT THIS PROGRAM AND OVERALL U.S.-MALAWI RELATIONS  
ON MILITARY SIDE ARE NOT FURTHER UNDERMINED.

6. FURTHER COMMENTS FOLLOW.

SHEINBAUM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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